Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 INT-08

DODE-00 DRC-01 OMB-01 /076 W ----- 093694

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1287
INFO AMEM BASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT LEBANON
COMIDEASTFOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAMA 0430

E.O.11652 : N/A TAGS : ELAB, BA

SUBJECT: LABOR DISPUTE AT ALUMINUM BAHRAIN (ALBA)

REF : MANAMA 420

1. ALBA AUTHORITIES TELL US APPROXIMATELY 80 PER CENT OF WORK FORCE NOW BACK ON JOB WORKING 12 HOUR SHIFTS. COMPANY HAS GIVEN REST OF WORKERS UNTIL JUNE 22 TO REPORT BACK, AT WHICH TIME COMPANY WILL CONSIDER THOSE STILL OUT AS TERMINATED. THEY FULLY EXPECT BULK OF THOSE REMAINING OUT TO RETURN BY THEN. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF SYMPATHY STOPPAGES AT OTHER LOCATIONS; HOWEVER, THEY APPEAR MINOR AND SHOULD DISSOLVE IF ALL ALBA EMPLOYEES RETURN.

2. REACTION IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIMITED MAINLY TO CRITICISM OF GOB FOR ARREST OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBER (NAM) EBRAHIM AL-KHALIFA RATHER THAN METHOD OF DISPERSING WORKERS AT PLANT. MINISTER OF INTERIOR INFORMED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT NAM AL-KHALIFA HAD INCITED STRIKING WORKERS AND THREATENED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KILL POLICE OFFICER WHO WAS PRESERVING SECURITY.

HE THEREFORE COMMITTED AN OFFENSE UNDER THE PENAL CODE, AND, UNDER CONSTITUTION, HIS PARLIMENTARY IMMUNITY FORFEITED. THE ASSEMBLY VOTED 27-13 (ALL ELECTED MEMBERS FOR AND ALL CABINET MINISTERS AGAINST) THAT NAM AL-KHALIFA BE RELEASED TO EXERCISE HIS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE ASSEMBLY AND BE BROUGHT BEFORE COURT. THE GOB CONSIDERS THIS MOTION UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND HAS NOT RELEASED AL-KHALIFA.

3. ALTHOUGH STILL TOO EARLY TO BE SURE, GOVT SEEMS TO HAVE HANDLED ISSUE OF DISPUTE WELL. MAJOR ISSUE NOW SEEMS TO BE NAM AL-KHALIFA PROBLEM. IF GOVT CAN SCORE POINTS HERE ALSO, THEY WILL BE ONE UP ON THE ASSEMBLY. TWINAM

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Message Attributes

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